

REMARKS

The claims of the present application have been subjected to an Election Requirement such that applicants have been required to make the following elections:

[1] an election of either Species A (Figure 2) or Species B (Figure 2B); and

[2] an election of one of the following:

Species I - tape having a single cord;

Species II - tape having only two cords; and

Species III - tape having only three cords.

Election

Applicants elect: [1] Species B shown in Figure 2B; and [2] Species #I which is a tape having a single cord. This election is made with traverse based on the following reasons.

Reasons in Support of Traverse of Election Requirement

The Election Requirement is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the search and substantive examination of the elected species identified above will necessarily involve issues that substantially overlap with all of the other species identified in the Election Requirement including all of the other subject

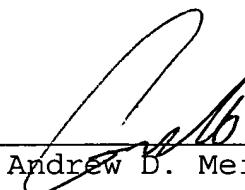
matter encompassed by the claims of the present application. It is noted that the Election Requirement has not identified any specific basis establishing that there is a burden to examine all of the subject matter encompassed by the present claims, such as identification of searching classes or subclasses which differ depending upon the species. Consequently, it is submitted that there is no significant undue burden placed on the Examiner and it is requested that the Election Requirement be withdrawn.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____


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